

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3394

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2002

ACCELERATED RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMME

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the application of funds meant for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme during the 9th Five Year Plan, without adequate planning and scientific identification of water sources led to abandonment of thousands of schemes in different States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the loss and the wasteful expenditure incurred thereby, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) & (b): Para 5.3 of Chapter III of the Report No. 3 of CAG for the year 2002 (for the year ended March, 2001) has observed that in 19 States, implementing agencies abandoned 2,371 schemes in the course of their execution after incurring an aggregate expenditure of Rs.197.52 crore, rendering the entire expenditure infructuous. It has been stated that these schemes failed due to various reasons such as sources drying up, failure of tube wells, low discharge of water, non-availability of ground and raw water, wrong selection of sites, non-availability of land, objections raised by the local people, other disputes, non-completion of dam work, non-construction of treatment plant, non-availability of critical material, errors in design and drawing, etc. Abandonment of other schemes has also been attributed to defects in planning and ineffective implementation.

Drinking water supply being a State subject, schemes for providing drinking water facilities are implemented by the States from their own resources. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The powers to plan, sanction and implement Rural Water Supply schemes under the above programmes rests with the State Governments.

Most of the observations contained in the CAG Report are State specific and therefore, action thereon is to be taken by the respective State Governments. State Governments have been requested to furnish their comments on the observation pertaining to them which include abandonment of schemes due to various reasons.